GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:253
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003
COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY EIC
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

:

(a) whether Export Inspection Council of India (EIC) is the sole agency to monitor the quality control drills/guidelines/directions/instructions, laid down by importing country specially the European Community/Commission:

(b) whether any complaints regarding quality of products have been received by EIC during the past three years;

(c) if so, the details and nature of the complaints received; and

(d) the remedial measures taken on those complaints?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 253 FOR ANSWE 7TH MARCH, 2003 REGARDING COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY EIC

(a): No. Sir. However, Export Inspection Council of India (EIC) is recognised as the competent authority for issuing certificates of authenticity for basmati rice and health certificate for fish and fishery products by the European Commission.

(b): The details of complaints regarding quality of fish and fishery products exported to European Union (EU) countries received by EIC are at annexure. No quality complaint has however been received by EIC in respect of export of basmati rice to EU countries.

(c) & (d) As may be seen from the annexure, the number of complaints received by EIC during the years 2000, 2001 & 2002 are 9, 13, & 50 respectively. These complaints have been reported by the countries of the EU on account of detection of microbiological, chemical and heavy metal contaminants in the consignments of fish and fishery products exported from India.

EIC have devised a detailed complaint handling mechanism under which the processing unit is put on `alert` and monitoring of the unit, by the officials of EIC/ Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs), is made more stringent, whereby monitoring visits by officials are increased from usual two to four visits per month till the satisfactory testing of ten consecutive consignments. EIC/ EIAs carry out detailed investigations in each case to ascertain the exact cause and source of the contamination and take further necessary steps with a view to prevent the cause of such contamination.

Government have taken a number of steps to eliminate the incidence of rejection of consignments of fish & fishery products on account of microbiological and chemical contamination, which include -

- laying down the essential requirements for hygienic handling of seafood at all stages of production, storage and transport to ensure effective compliance of the quality standards;

- prescribing the maximum permissible level of chemicals and heavy metals;

- monitoring by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the EIC of the processing units to ensure tha required standards are followed;

- campaign by MPEDA and other Government agencies in all seafood producing areas to bring quality awareness among the exporters, processors, farmers, feed manufacturers, hatchery owners, etc. and to dissuade them not to use the banned chemicals at any stage; and

- setting up/upgradation of laboratories for the purpose of testing of seafood at major production centers and improvement/modernisation of fish landing centres and fishing harbours.

Annexure

COUNTRY-WISE STATUS QUALITY OF COMPLAINTS RELATING TO EXPORTS OF FISH & FISHERY PRODUCTS TO EU

COUNTRIES REPORTED DURING 2000, 2001 & 2002

	2000			2001			2002		
Country	Chemi-cals	Microbi-ological/ Heavy Metals	Total	Chemi-cals	Microbi-ological/ Heavy Metals	Total	Chemi-cals	Microbi-ological/ Heavy Metals	Total
Spain	0	4/1	5	0	7	7	15	6/1	22
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
France	0	3	3	0	1	1	1	2	3
U.K.	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Italy	0	1	1	0	4	4	3	2	5
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Belgium	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
TOTAL	0	8/1	9	0	13	13	29	20/1	50